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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

TO: Women's Editors

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Even the best homes may have rats, Miss Frieda Schicht, the Lady Pied Piper who is serving as consultant to the National Committee for Rat Control, warned today. But it is a disgrace to keep them, she added, as she suggested that all housewives make a Rat Inspection Tour a must on the spring housecleaning schedule.

Miss Schicht, the woman behind St. Louis's successful rat control program, proposed a list of what to look for on a Rat Inspection Tour:

- 1) Rat tracks and droppings.
- 2) Gnawed goods.
- 3) Greasy marks along the baseboards.
- 4) Holes in foundations, walls, edges of doors, and in the yard.
- 5) Noises in the walls and ceilings.

Remember on the tour that it isn't necessary to see a rat to have them on the premises, Miss Schicht cautioned. If there are signs of rats, there may be as many as 100 before the householder sees one.

If signs of rats are found, "Build them out, starve them and kill them off," Miss Schicht advised. For the easiest methods, write to the National Committee for Rat Control, Interior Building, Washington 25, D.C., for a copy of Wildlife Circular No. 13, "Rat Control Methods", and Conservation Bulletin No. 19, "Rat Proofing".